### If you *do* have a spill

- If possible and safe, stop the source of the spill and extinguish all ignition sources.
- If gasoline is spilled, notify the fuel attendant and immediately step away from the area.
- Contact marina staff and/or state environmental agency for advice.
- ♦ Notify the U.S. or Canadian Coast Guard <u>and</u> state spill response office - it's the law.
- Carry a supply of absorbent pads to contain and clean up the spill.
- ♦ Collect oil-laden pads safely and dispose of them properly.
- Never use soaps or detergents on spills. It is illegal and damaging.



For more information on how you can prevent spills, contact the U.S. or Canadian Coast Guard or your state or local environmental agency.

### Pacific Oil Spill Prevention Education Team (POSPET)

#### www.oilspilltaskforce.org

#### **British Columbia**

B.C. Ministry of Environment PO Box 9377 Stn Prov Govt Victoria, BC, CANADA V8W 9M6

Canadian Marine Environment Protection Society Box 461, 1755 Robson St. Vancouver, BC, CANADA V6G 3B7

Green Boating Program, Georgia Strait Alliance 195 Commercial St., #210 Nanaimo, BC, CANADA V9R 5G5

Ocean Watch Boaters Association of B.C. 1319 3rd Ave. New Westminster, BC, CANADA V3M 1R2

#### Oregon

NWR Environmental Partnerships 2020 SW 4th Ave., Suite 400 Portland, OR 97201

Oregon State Dept. of Environmental Quality 811 SW Sixth Ave. Portland, OR 97204

Oregon State Marine Board, Clean Marina Program PO Box 14145 Salem, OR 97309-5065

Pacific States/B.C.
Oil Spill Task Force
PO Box 1032
Neskowin, OR 97149-1032

Pacific States Marine Fisheries Commission Habitat Education Program PO Box 221 Depoe Bay, OR 97341

#### Washington

NW Marine Trade Assoc. 1900 N Northlake Way #233 Seattle, WA 98103

Puget Soundkeeper Alliance 5309 Shilshole Ave. NW #215 Seattle, WA 98107

University of Washington, Sea Grant Program 3716 Brooklyn NE Seattle, WA 98105

USCG Marine Safety Auxiliary 1685 "H" St, #582 Blaine, WA 98230-5107

Washington State Dept. of Ecology Spill Prevention, Preparedness, & Response Program PO Box 47600 Olympia, WA 98504-7600

Washington State Dept. of Natural Resources Aquatic Resources Program PO Box 47027 Olympia, WA 98504-7027

#### California

California Coastal Commission, Boating Program 45 Fremont Street, Suite 1900 San Francisco, CA 94105

California Dept. of Fish and Game Office of Spill Prevention and Response PO Box 944209 Sacramento, CA 94244-2090

If you need this publication in an alternate format, please call the Spills Program at 360-407-7455(Voice). Persons with hearing loss can call 711(TTY) for Washington Relay Service. Persons with a speech disability can call 877-833-6341.

Additional POSPET contact information can be found at www.oilspilltaskforce.org

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# Why oil spills aren't slick

As little as a quart of spilled oil, diesel or gasoline can contaminate acres of water and can prove deadly to all forms of marine life. Juvenile fish, shellfish larvae and other fragile and essential sea life are extremely sensitive to even small amounts of oil and other petroleum products.

Small spills (even a few drops) from inattentive or irresponsible fueling or from discharging oily bilge water can permanently harm our waters and degrade the enjoyment and productivity of recreational and commercial boating.

A rainbow sheen around fueling docks or signs of bilge wastes indicate that damage is occurring. The accumulation and persistence of these oil products continually threaten our entire marine environment.

Using soaps or detergents on spilled oil or fuel:

- Is toxic to marine life.
- ♦ Is illegal.
- Does not eliminate the spill.
- Makes cleanup impossible.

## What you can do about it

## Keep boat maintained and mechanically sound:

Before starting out each boating season, mariners should take special precautions to inspect, tighten or replace fittings on oil, fuel and hydraulic lines, and when under way, maintain watches for oily surface sheens from bilge and exhaust outlets.

- ◆ Avoid temporary spill-prone repairs. Complete permanent repairs immediately, using quality marine parts, lines and fittings. Test these repairs for oil or fuel leaks before operating boat.
- Do not store unnecessary quantities of oil-based liquids on board.
- Keep oil and water from entering bilge.
- ♦ Keep engines well tuned.
- Do NOT mix used oil with paint, solvents, or antifreeze. Mixed oil can't be recycled.
- Install a fuel spill prevention device such as a fuel/air separator or overfill warning whistle in the fuel vent line.

#### Use care in fueling your boat:

- Shut off all engines during fueling.
- Know the capacity of your fuel tanks and avoid overflows. Do not top off fuel tanks. Leave room for fuel expansion.
- Use an absorbent pad or fuel collar device to catch drips.



◆ Do not let fuel escape into water from tank vents.

#### Eliminate oily bilge discharges:

- ♦ Keep bilges dry and oil free.
- Periodically check for oil leaks and accumulation of water.
- Place an oil absorbent pad or pillow in your vessel bilge.
- Shut off bilge pump while refueling.

